

News Release

U of M Crookston Online Credit Hours Up 41 Percent

By Michelle Christopherson, Elizabeth Tollefson on Monday, July 9, 2007

CROOKSTON, Minn. (July 9, 2007) – Online credit hours at the University of Minnesota, Crookston are up 41 percent over summer semester 2006. The increase can be attributed to the U of M, Crookston's accreditation by the Higher Learning Commission (HLC), along with two additional bachelor's degrees available entirely online.

"As a working adult, I knew that the traditional on campus college degree was not an option for me," says Tony Decembrini, an online manufacturing management student from California, "I needed and wanted something a little more flexible. As a transfer student I was searching for the right online degree and the University of Minnesota, Crookston was just what I was looking for."

The U of M, Crookston has been delivering the bachelor of applied health (BAH) degree since the mid 1990's and was accredited in October 2006 to deliver the bachelor's of manufacturing management (BMM) and bachelor's of science in business (BSB) entirely online. Expansion of online degrees plays an important role in the University of Minnesota, Crookston vision and strategic positioning which calls for pursuing an aggressive growth strategy in selected areas of online programming. The campus looks to build on its reputation, infrastructure and talent to compete in this growing educational marketplace.

"I love the fact that I am able to take online classes from an accredited school, and I really like that UMC is affiliated with the University of Minnesota", said Amanda Hinrichs, online applied health student.

The U of M, Crookston's online growth is a result, in part from articulation agreements with other institutions, ease of transfer credit and the flexible learning environment. "We have 32 new online degree seeking students enrolled for summer 2007, in addition to all of our other students seeking a flexible learning environment who want to continue their studies over the summer semester," said Michelle Christopherson, director of the Center for Adult Learning.

Online enrollment continues to grow while the U of M, Crookston delivers 40 courses via the Web in addition to the three online degree programs. Along with UMC's accreditation in 2006, the HLC gave blanket approval for UMC to provide any of its traditionally offered degree programs online, as approved by the University of Minnesota Board of Regents. The U of M, Crookston was the first U of M campus to offer degrees via the Web and is the only campus in the University system to receive this blanket approval from the HLC.

For more information log onto: www.UMCrookston.edu/online or contact UMC Online at: umonline@umn.edu

The University of Minnesota, Crookston delivers more than 25 applied-science undergraduate degree programs and 50 concentrations, including online degrees, in agriculture; arts, humanities and social sciences; business; math, science and technology; and natural resources. The U of M, Crookston is dedicated to helping students and the region aim higher, reach further and dream bigger dreams. To learn more, visit www.UMCrookston.edu.

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